

ACT/021/004

NOTICE OF INTENT
FOR PROPOSED STATE ACTIONS

State Clearinghouse, Attn: A-95 Coordinator, Room 124 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114, Tel: (801) 533-6081

1. Legal Applicant (State Agency, address, city, state, ZIP code) DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING 1588 WEST NORTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84116	2. State Application Identifier	a. Number
		b. Date Year month day Received
	3. Approximate date action will be initiated NOVEMBER 30, 1979	

3. Type of Action

☐ Lease ☒ Permit ☐ License ☐ Land Acquisition

☐ Land Sale ☐ Land Exchange ☐ Other (specify) _____

4. Description of Proposed Action

See attached sheet

5. Lands Affected (Site location map required): Township 36 South, Range 17 West, Section 2

See attached sheet and map

6. Possible significant impacts likely to occur

See attached sheet

7. For further information contact: DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING Phone: 533-5771 Telephone No.	8. Signature and Title of Authorized Officer <i>Ronald W. Daniel</i> Date: 10/31/79 g-2
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4. Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation proposes the reactivation of an existing underground operation which has been mined sporadically in the past. Currently, Ranchers is in the process of developing a pilot exploration program to determine overall mining feasibility; which will include driving underground openings, conducting test stoping operations, and obtaining bulk ore samples for metallurgical testing. Ranchers will also incorporate a moderate dewatering program during this pilot phase, consisting of five existing vertical turbine pumps to transfer the mine water to a natural recharge point in Shoal Creek via a canal and pipeline at a rate of approximately 11,000 gallons per minute.

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has reviewed the plans for this pilot program and has issued tentative approval.

Upon successful completion of the pilot phase, it is anticipated that a mine development and mining phase, to take place above the present water table, of some eighteen months duration, would take place. During this period of time, little or no dewatering would occur. Simultaneously, further metallurgical test work, mill engineering and design, and mill construction would be undertaken. A new Mining and Reclamation Plan will be filed when it has been decided to commence mining on a full scale.

5. The Escalante Silver Property is located about eight miles north of Enterprise, Utah, located on the flanks of the western hills adjacent to the Escalante Valley. The property was discovered in the late 1800's, and sporadic, small scale mining has occurred in the past.

It is a typical basin and range epithermal quartz-calcite vein deposit. It has an ore strike length of some 3000' and dips to the northwest at 70°. It ranges from 5'-50' thick and has a proposed mineable depth of some 500'-600'.

It is quite low grade silver, with minor amounts of copper, lead, zinc and gold.

The area immediately surrounding the mine consists of rolling moderate-relief terrain covered with sagebrush. About 1½ miles to the east out in the flat Escalante Valley, considerable agricultural areas are being farmed primarily for alfalfa, grain and potatoes. No industry exists within the vicinity of the mine. The hills are composed predominately of rhyolites and andesites. The valleys are filled with alluvium.

The valley terrain is at some 5180'-5200' above MSL, with the mine at 5235'-5250' above MSL.

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The vein structure has been extensively drilled in the past. Because of it's low grade nature and the necessity to dewater the orebody in order to mine it, the property has never been brought into full production by a number of mining companies who had the lease in the past. (see attached map)

6. Ranchers has developed a mining plan for the orebody, and in conjunction with the plan, engaged Dames & Moore of Phoenix to thoroughly review all past hydrologic data and model the dewatering requirements and problems on a conservative basis.

In summary, Dames & Moore believes that the orebody can be technically and safely dewatered, and in such a manner that little or no negative impact will be experienced by the local agricultural community in terms of lowering the water table or diminishing the quality of the water. Vertical turbine pumps, five of which are existent, would be used for dewatering purposes with the pumped waters being transported via canal and pipeline to the natural recharge point in the valley. In effect, the water will be pumped, transported, recharged into the aquifer, and pumped again in an ongoing program.

During the dewatering of the pilot phase, expected to last between February and mid-May of 1980, discharge waters would be placed in an existent dewatering canal running north from the property.

In addition to underground construction activities, a moderate surface program will be required, consisting of erecting a 30' x 50' maintenance building, siting some administration and warehousing trailers, placing screened rock on existing roads for stabilization purposes, and conducting some further moderate drilling programs.

For the pilot phase, approximately thirteen people will be employed at the property, many of them locally-hired.

Mining and all surface facilities will be located on fee and Bureau of Land Management land, with the exception of some access roads being constructed on State land involving leases ML-17763 and ML-17764. This operation is deemed to have a minimal impact.

Contact Water Rights on Dewatering

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